



The Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall Replacement Project

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Washington State
Department of Transportation

City of Seattle

MARCH 2005 COMMENT SUMMARY

Introduction

The Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project database contains 4,863 comments, 51 of which were submitted in March of 2005.

Origin of Comments

Thirty-eight of the comments received came from attendees at community briefings held by the project team. Twelve comments were submitted via email and one comment via phone.

Seventeen comments were received from the central area of the project, two from the northern area, and three from the southern area. Four comments were received from outside the project corridor and the origin of three comments could not be determined.

Comment Categories

Each comment submitted is categorized by the content of the message. Please note that depending on content, some comments were grouped into more than one category. There are 60 comment categories divided into six sections. The sections are economic, structures/locations, transportation, design and construction, and environmental/public safety. The comment categories range from cost and freight to traffic, air pollution and public safety.

Sample comments are listed below by section.

Design/Construction:

This group includes categories such as construction, urban design, the Seawall, and engineering. There were 22 comments identified in this group.

- Could you build the two tunnels one on top of the other? This way most of both tunnels could be built at once before the Viaduct is torn down.
- I much prefer the tunnel solution for the Alaskan Way Viaduct. It would allow better local access to shops and attractions, and is the best way to block the noise.
- It is important to separate our needs in this area. The Viaduct and Seawall need replacement because of safety reasons, and the light rail and monorail are needed

because of traffic. Don't lump the need for more capacity with the need for a new Viaduct. Let's keep them separate!

- How far out are you projecting traffic and is there room to build in more lanes or capacity in the future?
- Is there a contingency plan if the Viaduct or Seawall were to fail tomorrow?

Economic:

The group includes categories such as cost, funding, property value/acquisition, and tolls. There were seven comments in this group.

- How are we going to come up with the money to pay for the project?
- How much will City residents be expected to contribute? How about taxes, tolls, and other modes of payment?
- Does the tunnel replace or act as part of the Seawall and what is the cost of replacing only the Seawall?
- What are the likely scenarios or probabilities for generating the needed funding for the project?

Transportation:

This group includes categories such as traffic, connections/circulations, pedestrians, and bicycles. There were 15 comments in this group.

- Why doesn't the state open up the I-5 bottleneck through Seattle first before working on the Alaskan Way Viaduct?
- Are there plans to divert traffic to other areas in the corridor during construction and what would those other routes be?
- What are the exit points heading south on Aurora?
- Could Republican Street be pedestrian access only?

Environmental/Public Safety:

This group includes categories like noise, public safety, earthquakes, and visual quality. There were four comments in this group.

- Even if the Viaduct blocks views of the water from parts of downtown, I along with others are able to use the Viaduct everyday and enjoy our beautiful city, harbor and mountain views.
- It is such a great experience driving on the Viaduct every morning, I would think it's preservation (or rebuilding) would be more obvious of an answer to the problem than it's demolition and replacement with a dismal tunnel.

Transit:

This group includes categories like monorail, light rail, and transit. There were six comments in this group.

- Was there any discussion of combining the Monorail and the Viaduct through downtown to help with funding and construction coordination?